

JAMES A. LEACH  
SECOND DISTRICT, IOWA



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FINANCIAL SERVICES  
CHAIRMAN EMERITUS

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INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEE:  
ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
CHAIRMAN

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

May 23, 2003

02-277

Chairman Michael K. Powell  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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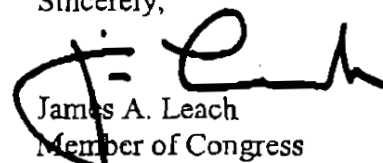
VIA FACSIMILE: (202)418-2801

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to express my concern about the proposed changes to media ownership rules that the Commission is considering. While the influence of technology and the internet have increased the number of ways in which consumers can receive information, it nonetheless remains essential that the sources of information remain as wide as the instruments to transmit. American history, indeed American political philosophy, is rooted in the encouragement of disparate expression and competition of ideas. Diversity of views are stifled if diversity of information sources is concentrated.

In this context, despite and perhaps because of the reduction in investment needed to run a concentrated media empire, the case for further consolidation in the industry is unconvincing.

Sincerely,

  
James A. Leach  
Member of Congress

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DATE

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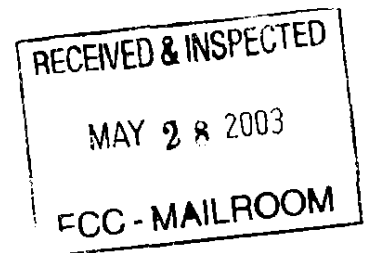
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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Joan Heron  
PO Box 1923  
Idyllwild, CA 92549-1923

Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



RE: Docket No. 02-277 Don't abandon media safeguards!

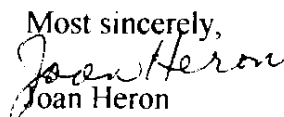
Dear FCC Commissioners,

I strongly urge that the FCC abandon its plan to end long-standing and critical safeguards that have served as an important "check and balance" system to help ensure diversity of media ownership. Under the proposal you are considering, one company in a community will be able to own the newspaper, several TV and radio stations, the cable system, and the principal Internet access company. There will be fewer owners of networks, stations, and newspapers nationwide. This will very badly damage true media diversity and competition. A competitive and diverse media is absolutely essential to ensure an informed citizenry and a healthy and vibrant democracy.

Eliminating these last remaining protections of the public trust would constitute a complete abandonment of the FCC's mission to ensure that our airwaves, which are owned by all Americans, are used in a manner which ensures the diverse range of voices and opinions needed in a healthy democracy. Loss of these protections would constitute a huge and unacceptable giveaway of public resources and political power to a few large and powerful media companies.

Further consolidation of the media in the false name of "deregulation" must be halted and in fact reversed. *TV and radio news in the hands of a handful of profit-driven corporations* has undermined our democracy more than any other modern force except the high cost of broadcast commercials during elections. The media companies have failed in their public trust to provide crucial unbiased information to the public about most public issues. Americans depend upon the media to bring us information that will allow us to make the informed choices necessary for the well-being of our nation and our future.

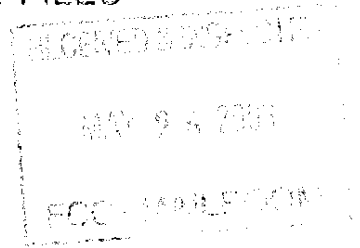
As an American concerned about our democracy, I urge you to reject the current proposal to abandon the last remaining controls on media consolidation. Instead, I strongly urge you to break up the media conglomerates, to open the spectrum to a wide diversity of organizations and independent journalists, and to reinstate the Fairness Doctrine.

Most sincerely,  
  
Joan Heron

NO. 02-277-001  
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445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554



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Most Sincerely,

Bonnie Arndt  
P.O. Box 762  
New Harmony IN  
47631

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